

CLAIMS

1. A method for inducing apoptosis in an activated T cell in a subject, comprising administering to the subject an effective amount of an agent which stimulates a CTLA4-associated apoptotic signal in the T cell.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the agent is an anti-CTLA4 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject at least one second agent that inhibits a costimulatory signal in the T cell.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the second agent is a blocking molecule which binds to a ligand selected from a group consisting of B7-1, B7-2 and CD28.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising administering to the subject a second agent which inhibits production or function of a T cell growth factor in the subject.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the second agent is a blocking molecule which binds to a ligand selected from a group consisting of interleukin-2 and an interleukin-2 receptor.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject suffers from an autoimmune disease.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising administering an autoantigen to the subject.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the subject suffers from an allergy, the method further comprising administering an allergen to the subject.

10. A method for inhibiting rejection of graft from a donor in a transplant recipient, comprising administering to the recipient an effective amount of an agent which stimulates a CTLA4-associated apoptotic signal in an alloreactive T cell in the recipient.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein the agent is an anti-CTLA4 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein cells from the donor are administered to the recipient prior to administration of the agent and prior to transplantation of the graft into the recipient.

5           13. A method for inhibiting graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) in a recipient of a bone marrow transplant, comprising administering to the recipient an effective amount of an agent which stimulates a CTLA4-associated apoptotic signal in an alloreactive T cell in donor bone marrow.

10           14. The method of claim 13, wherein the agent is an anti-CTLA4 monoclonal antibody, or fragment thereof.